

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 10/720,194

Attorney Docket No.: Q78543

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 2 is being replaced to more distinctly illustrate the retaining latch.

Attachment: One (1) replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Summary Of The Office Action & Formalities

Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant is canceling claims 3, 7, 10, 13, and 16, and amending claims 1 and 5. No new matter is added.

The drawings are objected to for the reason set forth at page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant is amending the application to overcome this rejection. For the Examiner's benefit, a photographs showing a connector and its latch. (Exhibits A-C) The Examiner is strongly encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney should the Examiner maintain the drawing objection.

The prior art rejections are summarized as follows:

1. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tharp (US 6,174,190).

Claims 3, 7, 10, 13, and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without agreeing to or commenting on the merits of the grounds of rejection, without prejudice, and to expedite issuance of a patent, Applicant is amending claim 1 to included the additional features recited in allowable claim 3 and amending claim 5 to included the additional features recited in allowable claim 7, thereby placing this application in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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